



Max van der Stoel Award

For extraordinary and outstanding achievements in improving the position of national minorities in the OSCE participating States.



How is the winner selected?

The office of the HCNM manages the selection process. After drawing up a shortlist of candidates, a specially composed international jury, chaired by the High Commissioner, chooses the winner.

Eligible candidates include international organizations, non-governmental organizations, research institutes, government bodies or individuals in the OSCE participating States.

OSCE field presences and institutions, and delegations of the OSCE participating States are encouraged to nominate candidates. Anyone else can propose an eligible candidate by contacting the office of the HCNM, which will decide whether to nominate the proposed candidate.

www.osce.org/hcnm/mvdsaward

Who are the past winners?

- 2024 Natur og Ungdom, Norway
- 2022 Social Justice Center, Georgia
- 2020 Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre, Ireland
- 2018 High school students from Jajce, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 2016 The Association for Historical Dialogue and Research, Cyprus
- 2014 Spravedlivost, Kyrgyzstan
- 2011 The Nansen Dialogue Centre Skopje, North Macedonia
- 2009 The Integration and Development Centre for Information and Research, Ukraine
- 2007 The European Roma Rights Centre, Hungary
- 2005 The "Memorial" International Historical Enlightenment, Human Rights and Humanitarian Society, Russian Federation
- 2003 The Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies, Latvia

What is the Max van der Stoel Award?

The Max van der Stoel Award is a prize of €50,000 that is presented every two years for extraordinary and outstanding achievements in improving the position of national minorities in the OSCE participating States. Established in 2001 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, the Award honours Max van der Stoel, who was the first OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM).

Who was Max van der Stoel?

Max van der Stoel (1924–2011) was a Dutch statesman who had a long and distinguished career. He was appointed as the first OSCE HCNM in 1992 and served until 2001. He was twice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, and held seats in both the upper and lower houses of the Dutch Parliament. He served as Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations and was awarded the honorary title of Minister of State by the then Queen Beatrix.



Nominations for the 2026 Max van der Stoel Award

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands will present the 2026 prize at a special ceremony in The Hague in the autumn.

Deadline 15 March 2026

OSCE field operations, institutions and delegations

Nominate through the online form [here](#); by email to: mvds@hcnm.org; or write to: Max van der Stoel Award, Tournooiveld 4, 2511CX The Hague, the Netherlands.

Everyone else

You can propose a candidate to the HCNM using the online form [here](#); by email to: mvds@hcnm.org; or by writing to: Max van der Stoel Award, Tournooiveld 4, 2511CX The Hague, the Netherlands. The HCNM will decide whether to nominate your submission.

Please include the name of the candidate, relevant contact information and the reason for your nomination (100–200 words, in English).